

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 345288013US	
Application No. 10/703,393-Conf. #9217		Filing Date November 7, 2003		Examiner I. I. Sherall	
				Art Unit 2624	

Applicant(s): Gordon et al.

Invention: BACKGROUND ESTIMATION AND SEGMENTATION BASED ON RANGE AND COLOR

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	28	- 20 =	8	x	50.00
Independent Claims	2	- 3 =	0	x	200.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					400.00

☒ Large Entity ☐ Small Entity

☐ No additional fee is required for this amendment.

☒ Please charge EFT Account No. SEA1PIRM in the amount of \$ 400.00.

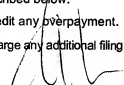
☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

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☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-0665 as described below.

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 Christopher S. Daley-Watson
 Attorney/Agent Reg. No.: 34,807

PERKINS COIE LLP
 P.O. Box 1247
 Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
 (206) 359-8000

Dated: May 10, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Gaile Gordon et al.

Application No.: 10/703,393

Confirmation No.: 9217

Filed: November 7, 2003

Art Unit: 2624

For: BACKGROUND ESTIMATION AND
SEGMENTATION BASED ON RANGE AND
COLOR

Examiner: I. I. Sherali

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2007, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for distinguishing between background and foreground objects in an image, comprising the steps of:

i) determining respective range values for pixels in each of a plurality of related images;

ii) determining respective intensity values for pixels in each of said plurality of related images;

iii) establishing a multi-dimensional background model for at least some of said pixels on the basis of said range values and said intensity values;

iv) comparing the range value for a particular pixel in a given image with the background model for that pixel, and labeling the pixel as a foreground pixel if the range value differs from the background model by a range threshold; and

v) comparing the intensity value for said particular pixel in a given image with the background model for that pixel, and labeling the pixel as a foreground pixel if the intensity value differs from the background model by an intensity threshold.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining whether the range value for said particular pixel is valid, and performing said comparing step (iv) only if said range value is valid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein determining whether the range value for said particular pixel is valid further includes:

computing a confidence value; and

comparing said confidence value to a threshold to determine if the range value for said particular pixel is valid.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further including the step of determining whether background range data for said particular pixel is valid, and if said background range data is not valid, labeling the particular pixel as a foreground pixel in response to the comparing step (iv) for neighboring pixels if a range gradient associated with said particular pixel is less than a gradient threshold.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining whether the luminance of said particular pixel is greater than a designated minimum value, and performing said comparing step (v) only if the luminance is greater than said minimum value .

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining the ratio of the intensity value for said particular pixel to the background intensity value for that pixel, and labeling the pixel as a foreground pixel if said ratio is less than a first predetermined value.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said first predetermined value is based upon a decrease in luminance due to shadows in an image.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further including the step of labeling the pixel as a foreground pixel if said ratio is greater than a second predetermined value.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said second predetermined value is based upon an increase in luminance due to interreflections in an image.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of alternatively labeling the pixel as a foreground pixel if the luminance of the pixel is greater than a designated minimum value by a predetermined factor.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said factor is at least 2.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said alternative labeling step is performed only if the luminance of the background texture model for the pixel is less than said designated minimum value.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of updating said background model on the basis of range values and intensity values obtained from a sequence of N images.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including the steps of detecting image-to-image changes in said range values and intensity values, and effectively adjusting the value of N in accordance with the detected changes.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the value of N is effectively increased when the magnitude of detected changes increases.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said intensity values are one-dimensional values corresponding to the luminance of pixels.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said intensity values are two-dimensional values which are invariant to luminance.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said intensity values represent a three-dimensional color space.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further including the step of normalizing said intensity values according to luminance.

20. (Original) A system for identifying foreground objects in an image comprising:

a sensor which determines intensity values for pixels within an image;

a range processor which determines distance values for pixels within said image;

a background estimator which computes a multi-dimensional background model for said pixels on the basis of said intensity values and said distance values; and

a discriminator which compares intensity and distance values for pixels in an image to said background model and determines whether said pixels represent a foreground object.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said background estimator generates a multi-dimensional histogram of intensity and distance values for a pixel within a plurality of related images, and computes a background model for said pixel by means of a clustering technique.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said discriminator determines the differences between the intensity and distance values for a pixel in an image and the background model for that pixel, and compares said differences to respective intensity and distance thresholds.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said discriminator selectively adjusts said intensity threshold in accordance with the result of a comparison based upon said distance threshold.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said discriminator increases said intensity threshold if the difference between the distance value for a pixel in an image and the background model for that pixel is less than said distance threshold.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said intensity values are one-dimensional values corresponding to the luminance of pixels.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said intensity values are two-dimensional values which are invariant to luminance.

27. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said intensity values represent a three-dimensional color space.

28. (Original) The system of claim 20 further including an intensity processor which normalizes said intensity values according to luminance.

29. – 33. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner divided the claims into the following groups:

I. Claims 1-28, drawn to a method and a system for distinguishing between background and foreground objects in an image; and

II. Claims 29-33, drawn to a method and a system for determining background model using multi-dimension histogram.

In response, the applicants elect Group I without traverse. Non-elected claims 29-33 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, the applicants have elected to begin prosecution with examination of claims 1-28.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment herein to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Dated: May 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Christopher J. Daley-Watson

Registration No.: 34,807

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000

(206) 359-7198 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant